



Department of Justice



Office of Justice Programs

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$3.5 MILLION IN ANTI-GANG FUNDING TO CALIFORNIA

Funding Supports Efforts to Combat Gang Violence and Increase Prevention Efforts

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice today announced more than \$3.5 million in anti-gang funding to California today. Funding will be used to combat gang violence and increase gang prevention efforts under the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Initiative. For the Eastern District of California, covering the Central Valley from the Oregon border to the north to Kern County in the south, \$801,675 was awarded.

The Attorney General has identified gang activity as an increasing deadly threat to the safety and security of our nation's citizens and has made gang prevention and anti-gang enforcement a top priority.

The funds, administered by the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance within the Justice Department, will be utilized to reduce gang activity in California through efforts led by the United States Attorneys for the Northern District of California, the Central District of California, the Southern District of California and the Eastern District of California. These efforts include coordinated federal, state, and local enforcement aimed at reducing violent gang-related incidents, and evidence-based gang prevention and intervention focused on increasing positive outcomes for youth at high risk for gang involvement.

"Violent gang crime is a very real problem in California's Central Valley. With greater resources, such as those provided in these grants, along with the vigorous partnerships that exist among federal, state, and local agencies in our region, great strides will continue to be made to target gangs and curb the senseless violence they perpetrate in our communities," stated United States Attorney, Eastern District of California, McGregor W. Scott.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun crime in America. The effectiveness of PSN is based on the ability of local, state, and federal agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive led by the U.S. Attorney in each of the 94 federal judicial districts across the United States. Through collaboration with federal, state and local law enforcement, each U.S. Attorney will implement the five core elements of Project Safe Neighborhoods—partnerships, strategic planning, training, outreach and accountability—in a manner that is contoured to fit the specific gun crime problems in that district. The goal is to create safer neighborhoods by reducing gun violence and sustaining that reduction. The Attorney General's Anti-Gang initiative builds on the effective partnerships and strategies developed through PSN to support anti-gang enforcement and prevention efforts and to provide training and technical assistance.

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP), headed by Assistant Attorney General Regina B. Schofield, provides federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has five component bureaus: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office for Victims of Crime. Additionally, OJP has two program offices: the Community Capacity Development Office, which incorporates the Weed and Seed strategy, and the Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking (SMART) Office. More information can be found at

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov>.

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